

Minutes
INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING
PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION MEETING

Nov 23, 2015 6 pm
Huntingburg City Hall
508 E Fourth St
Huntingburg IN 47542
812-683-4143

A Meeting called to order 6pm

Present

Burke Jones
Eric Gentry
Eric Dreiman
Genois Brabson
Robert Johnson (asst. State Fire Marshal)
Tom Hanify
John Smith
Joe Romero (7:10 pm)

Absent

Greg Wyant
Rob Lund
Chris Johnson

- B. Eric Gentry made a motion to approval of September minutes as submitted.
Robert Johnson seconded. Motion passed.
- C Variance requests;

1. Jonathan Rollins is requesting to have testing read to him. ADA form submitted. This was denied at the Sept meeting due to the incomplete ADA form.

Staff has no recommendation.

The individual requested this item be pulled until the January meeting when he can attend.

2. Mickenzie Sneiderwine is requesting to have testing read to her and time extended. ADA form submitted

Staff has no recommendation. Eric Dreiman made a motion to approve. John Smith seconded. This is for test questions only. No other reference material may be read. Motion passed.

3. Chris Heath is requesting a variance for Safety Officer. Mr. Heath completed the testing in 2005 for Safety Officer. Certification was denied due his not having Fire Officer I as the prerequisite. In 2013 he completed and was certified as Fire Officer I. He is requesting that his Safety Officer certification be released.

Staff recommends denial. A deadline of March 10, 2010 was given for all to complete prerequisites for outstanding certifications. This dead line has more than passed. There is an 8 year gap and 2 standard changes during that time.

Eric Gentry made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Robert Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

4. Ben Rudolph is requesting a variance for Fire Investigator. He completed the FIT course at the Jasper Fire School, completed the state skills and completed the IAAI-FIT program and has the certification for this.

State recommends denial. The program at the Jasper Fire School does not cover the standard

John Smith made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

5. Nate Patton and Jim Fulwider are requesting variances for Fire Investigator. They completed a class by Public Safety Training Council in Indianapolis by Steven Chasteen. The class was 2.5 days long and

covered the NFPA 921 and 1033. I am waiting on completed skills for this class.

Eric Dreiman made a motion to deny. He has concerns about the length of this class. This is usually a 40 hour class and he does not believe it can be done in 2 ½ days. John Smith seconded. Motion to deny passed.

6. Matt Statdfield completed the ARRF training in Louisville KY and is asking for a variance for Airport Firefighter Certification.

This item has been pulled. Tabled due to lack of information

7. Joseph Gillespie, Hoosier Hills Career Center; is requesting a variance for 655 IAC 1-1-12(e) to allow the following students, each of whom currently is 16 years of age and a junior, to take the written examinations for Mandatory, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Firefighter I/II, and Hazardous Materials Awareness and Hazardous Material Operations, prior to taking the practical skills examinations, with the variance to be valid until their 19th birthday:

Dakota Hawkins; Katelyn Heishman; Zachary Johnson; Kameron Jones; David Litton; Jordan Neal; Chase Oltman; Ethan Cornwell; Adam Dishman; Kole Jones; Caleb Meeks; Gabriel White; Dylan Corns; Elijah Perez; David Stirm; Tanner Waldrip.

And

from 655 IAC 1-1-12(h) to allow the following students to take the practical skills examinations for Mandatory, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Firefighter I/II, and Hazardous Materials Awareness and Hazardous Material Operations] at the age of 17 years and 1 week and have their passing score remain valid until their 18th birthday, with the variance to be valid until their 19th birthday:

Danny Gillespie

Staff recommends approval.

John Smith made a motion to approve. Eric Gentry seconded. Motion passed.

8. Ben Sieverding is requesting a variance from 655 IAC 1-1-12(e) to allow the following students, each of whom currently is 16 years of age and a

junior, to take the written examinations for [Mandatory, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Firefighter I/II, and Hazardous Materials Awareness and Hazardous Material Operations,] prior to taking the practical skills examinations, with the variance to be valid until their 19th birthday:

Matthew Murray; Baily Borntrager; Sean Lewis, Joshua Schwarz. Karley Asche; Conner Gompf; Nathaniel Pelfrey; Joshua Waltson; Michael Davenport; Quentin Schwarte; and Kenny Spencer.

Staff recommends approval.

Eric Gentry made a motion to approve. Eric Dreiman seconded. Motion passed.

- 9 Anthony Smith, Brownsburg Fire Territory, is requesting a variance for Fire Officer I. He completed all testing in 2007 but this was denied due to not having the prerequisites. He completed the Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics in 2010 and is requesting the Fire Officer I certification be granted.

Staff recommends denial. A deadline of March 10, 2010 was given for all to complete prerequisites for outstanding certifications. This dead line has more than passed. There is an 8 year gap and 2 standard changes during that time.

John Smith made a motion to approved staff recommendation. Genois Brabson seconded. Motion passed.

- D. James Greeson, State Fire Marshal report;

No report

- E Joe Romero, Director of Training report;

Previous meetings talked about the readiness training and planning, district by district needs assessment. We have all the data collected. Preliminary results show a need for swift water rescue training across the state. We will be building the training schedule around the information collected.

- F. John Buckman, fire training report;

- 1) Safety Officer program, Shawn Grass, Battalion Chief at IFD

9 people on this committee looking to update the safety officer program. The current program offers a 5 day course curtesy of the NFA. Skills meeting the 2010 standard along with the 25 question test base, currently the NFA has not updated the material for the last 5 years. We propose updating the material to the 2015 standard. We also advise moving the test from a 25 question test to a 50 question test. We also propose the prerequisite of Fire Officer I AND 3 years at a facility. We also propose that the instructor go through the train to trainer program and receive in-service hours for the effort. We are asking to BETA test this class for the next 180 days, and all the complete and pass the testing to be eligible for certification. We are also asking for the BETA test, the prerequisite should include at this time, 3 years at a facility. After the 180 days, we will come back to the Board with a report. The current test bank comes from the NFA program, but the new bank will come from the book. The course length will stay 40 hours.

Joe Romero made a motion to allow BETA testing for 180 days. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

We have done several webinars in the last several weeks. We have focused on the training officer and we will do several more in the coming weeks. We will be talking about creating a needs assessment. Every dept. will need different information from the webinar. These are recorded, so if they cannot attend it live, they can still go back and watch it. We just finished 8 Fire Engineering train-to-trainers program. This will be the last live programs until 2016. We have done 38 programs.

Quality assurance is being continued. This program has been very successful. We have 38 courses coached last month that are completed, we have 28 in process and we delayed 1.

FOST program, we have hoped that Patrick Harper would be doing the train to trainer, but he will no longer be doing this. John Roberts will be picking this program up. Right now, you should be using the old material, but you can play with the new material. We are postponing the testing to the new program until Feb 1st. Fire Marshal Leadership seminars are on the Indiana Fire Training web site so you can get signed in now.

Jan 9th Rochester

Jan 23 N Vernon

Feb 6, Brownsburg

G. Administrative proceedings;

Discussion of Proposed Final Order for J. Cline, Cause # 14-26-BFPSE

No discussion at this time.

H Request for reciprocity;

No report at this time.

I. Administrative appeal requests;

Andrew Giordano is appealing the denial of his variance request. He requested Instructor I based on the IFSTA program. He did complete the state skills, but the Board denied his request, stating that he needed to complete the state test.

This was sent to legal.

J Old business;

Elections: Nominations:

Greg Wyant, Chair

Eric Dreiman, Co-Chair

Rob Lund, Secretary

John Smith made a motion to approve as nominated, Eric Gentry seconded.

Motion passed.

Don Cushman asked about why the 2016 meetings are all in Indianapolis. I can make these but what about the individuals that cannot make those. Is there a reason we are not going around?

Discussion was that no one attends the meetings regardless of where they are. The administrative cost for the meetings in travel status is large. Webinar is also available for those that cannot attend the meetings.

Next issue, what constitutes a civilian appointee? There is one that is an insurance person and definitely a civilian. The other is a retired firefighter. How does that constitute a civilian? We have tried to get a few civilians on the Board and get turned down.

Legal counsel attended via phone call. Issues should be taken to the governor's office. That is where the appointments occur. The statute states that they must

be civilian at the time of appointment. John Buckman stated that years ago, Tom Lorraine was a civilian position on the Board and he was a retired fire chief. Tom Hanify stated that he does not believe that people lean one way or the other.

Larry Curl about the meeting dates. Are you really here to make it easy on yourself or to serve us? Eric Dreiman stated that it is not about making it easier on us, but the financial burden on the citizens is substantial. If you look around here there are mostly staff, and if you look at the demands we make at facility, there is not always a good accommodation. If you notice here, there are only 7 here but if we have all 11 members here, we could not all fit up here. We have had locations that simply could not accommodate us, and there simply was not room for everyone, plus staff. If you notice we did make a concession for the IVFA so that at personal expense we are traveling there, and we have attended meetings where even the firefighters did not attend the meetings when they are held in their department. We have a better attendance when we hold the meetings in Marion County.

Larry stated that holding them in Marion county is not in the best interest of the firefighters in Indiana.

K. New business;

Lt Governor asked the Marshal to do a report on the status of the volunteer fire service by the end of March. Second part of the study due also in March, will be talking about training, recruiting, and retention. The issue was the Lt. Governor read a report that the population will shift from Urban to city and wants to know the impact.

L Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm

NEXT MEETING:

January 11, 2016 6pm
Wayne Twp FD
700 N High School Rd
Indpls IN 46214
317-789-0498